New rail line projects in Gujarat

2569. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey with regard to construction of 10 new railway lines in Gujarat has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof including budgetary support for the anticipated cost; and

(c) the present status of the said new railway lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) In the last three years, surveys for following new lines in Gujarat have been completed:

(i) Bhavnagar-Mahuva (118 km)

(ii) Harij-Mahesana-Radhanpur (108 km)

(iii) Porbandar-Porbandar Port (5 km)

(iv) Ningala-Gadhad-Babra-Khijadiya (68 km)

(v) Mahesana-Taranga Hill (Gauge Conversion) with extension up to Ambaji (New Line) (108 km)

(vi) Modasa-Shamlaji (23 km)

(vii) Bhavnagar-Tarapur (135 km).

Out of the above, proposal of Modasa-Shamlaji has been sanctioned as part of Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaiprur gauge conversion project at an anticipated cost of Rs. 55.97crore.

New policy for container train operators

2570. MS. MABEL REBELLO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry is considering a policy to allow container train operators to use private sidings to load traffic;

(b) whether at present such operators are not allowed to load traffic from private sidings;

(c) whether her Ministry is considering a proposal under which box train operators may be allowed to pick up such commodities as cement, foodgrains, chemicals and fertilizers and iron and steel;

(d) if so, to what extent this decision has helped;

(e) whether she had announced in budget for framing such a policy; and

(f) if so, whether present policy has been helpful to operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, except in case of few private sidings where it had been permitted initially.

(c) to (f) As per existing instructions cement, foodgrains, chemicals, fertilizers and iron and steel are permitted commodities which can be loaded by Container Train Operators from a Rail Terminal including Railway goods sheds where container operations are feasible. In the Budget 2009-10, an announcement had been made for allowing Container Train Operators to use private sidings to load traffic. This will provide additional business opportunities to operators.

Unauthorised train journey

2571. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of touts, agents and passengers travelling on others' tickets or without tickets have been arrested by Railways since August, 2009 to 30 November, 2009; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise and division-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Due to gap between demand and supply of reserved accommodation, some cases of touts buying and selling of railway tickets in fictitious names and passengers travelling on others' tickets and without tickets, do come to notice. The zone-wise figures in respect of the above for the period August, 2009 to October, 2009 are given in the table below. Since persons travelling on others' tickets in reserved accommodation and persons travelling without tickets are apprehended and charged by the ticket checking staff in the running trains, division-wise figures of such passengers are not segregated.

The zone-wise figures in respect of touts apprehended, passengers apprehended while travelling on others' tickets and passengers caught travelling without tickets for the period August 2009 to October, 2009 are as under:

Railway	No. of touts/agents apprehended	No. of persons apprehended travelling on tickets purchased in others' names	No. of passengers caught travelling without tickets. (in lakh)
1	2	3	4
Central	0	733	2.58
Eastern	0	52	1.22
East Central	10	0	1.07
East Coast	3	7	0.39
Northern	37	95	3.90
North Central	0	26	1.62